

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The accompanying Replacement Sheet for Figure 1 includes the legend "PRIOR ART". No new matter has been added, and the Replacement Sheet is supported by the present application, including the specification. Entry and approval of amended FIG. 1 is respectfully requested.

Attachments: 1 Replacement Sheet.

REMARKS

Claims 14 to 26 are currently pending.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and for indicating that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO 1449 paper and cited references.

The Office Action states that four documents were missing from the IDS submitted February 14, 2005. Applicants respectfully submit that the four documents (DE19956553, DE10011269, DE10058976, and DE19712889) were cited in the Search Report provided by the International Searching Authority and therefore should have been provided by the International Searching Authority. However, Applicants hereby submit courtesy copies of the four references.

Figure 1 now includes the legend "Prior Art." Withdrawal of the drawing objection is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested based on the following.

Claims 14 and 24 to 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by JP2003-019952A to "Oishi" The "Oishi" reference was published January 21, 2003.

The present application claims foreign priority to DE 102 37 002.8, filed August 13, 2002. A certified translation of the priority German application is enclosed. Therefore, the "Oishi" reference is not prior art as to the present application.

Accordingly, claim 14 and 24 to 26 are allowable over the "Oishi" reference.

Claims 15 to 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Oishi reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,388,896 to "Hartmann".

As explained above, Oishi is not prior art as to claim 14. Since the Hartmann reference does not correct this deficiency and since claims 15 to 23 depend from claim 14, claims 15 to 23 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 14.

In summary, claims 14 to 26 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, claims 14 to 26 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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